

Religious Education News  
from Plymouth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
(SACRE)

October 2016

To all Leaders and Heads of RE in Plymouth schools using the Plymouth Agreed Syllabus

Dear all

This is a short update and reminder of the resources and sources of support available to you in your important work as a Leader/Head of RE. We know these are very challenging times to be a child and young person so what we provide in RE can make a major contribution in preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, whilst enabling them to develop Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally. (Key aspects of the two aims of the National Curriculum)

A **SHAP wall chart of Religious Festivals** for 2016/2017 was sent out to all Plymouth schools, week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> October, with the “key” to access further information. If you did not receive this please contact Jonathan Marshall on the Email address below.

Please note these resources are purchased from SHAP by SACRE for use in your school and should not be distributed beyond, as this would undermine the future work of SHAP.

The Plymouth **SACRE and RE website** contains some key documents like the current RE syllabus guidance and SACRE reports on its work. There are also links to other important RE sites and resources. Useful for teachers as well as members of the public.

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolroom](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolroom)

Our **Plymouth RE hub**, originally established through the Learn Teach Lead RE project, continues to meet each term (six times a year) and goes from strength to strength under the leadership of Katie Freeman. We hope that a local Secondary school teacher will soon join Katie to share the role. This is a really lively group which provides practical help, resources, inspiration, support and fun. Oh yes, and cake! For information contact Katie at:

katiefreeman@blueyonder.co.uk

The annual **Learn Teach Lead RE** conference will be held later this month at St. Mellion, from late afternoon Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October through Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. This will provide another fantastic opportunity to extend learning and be inspired by national speakers and fellow RE teachers! This year's theme is: *'MAKING RE WORK' – VALUES, DEPTH AND ENQUIRY*

For information and further details see the website [www.ltIRE.org](http://www.ltIRE.org)

**Plymouth SACRE has funding grants** of £250 each to support the development of RE in your school. Projects must address and illustrate an aspect of the approach highlighted in our Plymouth RE syllabus, “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews” 2014, which states that...

*“In particular, we want to emphasise the importance of our unique, local Plymouth story through focused learning and enquiry on; Heritage, Diversity and Spirituality.”*

References and connections to the *Mayflower 400* event would be particularly welcome.

A project should create good quality, active learning experiences and resources that will inspire and deepen understanding.

If you are interested and would like to apply contact me for further information:

[jonathan.marshallRE@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan.marshallRE@hotmail.com)

**The Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity** is looking for new premises due to the expansion of Salisbury Road School. There are some promising leads so we hope the situation will soon be successfully resolved. The work in schools has grown enormously over the past two years and approximately 500 visits, from Faith Speakers or to places of worship are now completed each year! Nationally, this is a unique service of support which enables children to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the place of religion and belief in people’s lives.

For information about the Centre and its services Email: [info@pcfcd.co.uk](mailto:info@pcfcd.co.uk)

Following SACRE’s successful “Teaching Islam” sessions in February, plans are underway to provide another series, this time on “**Teaching Judaism**” details to follow.

A reminder that the 27<sup>th</sup> January each year is **Holocaust Memorial Day**. I know many of you already plan for this in RE work and contribute to collective worship and assemblies. HMD reminds us of the important links with hate crime and preventing violent extremism. It reminds us too of our work around British Values and our role in helping our children and young people develop resilience, which is closely related to spiritual development. (There is a short paper about this on the SACRE/RE website)

These are very challenging times to be a teacher too! On behalf of Plymouth SACRE, thank you for all you are doing to help promote a deeper understanding of the role and importance of RE in your school. With the information above, we hope you know there is support for you but please do contact me if you feel SACRE can do anything further to help.

Best wishes

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